

GP/3731
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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 06530.0276-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Marc O. SCHURR et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3731

Application No. 09/957,451

) Examiner: Unknown

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR
FOLDING AND SECURING
TISSUE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached, along with a copy of a Search Report received in the counterpart international application (PCT/US01/29746) to this U.S. application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached 1449 form.

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

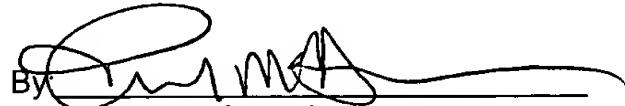
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

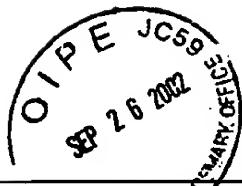
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Dated: September 26, 2002

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OMB No. 0651-0011

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Atty. Docket No. 06530-0276-00000 | Appln. No. 09/957,451 |
| Applicant Marc O. SCHURR et al. | |
| Filing Date September 21, 2001 | Group: 3731 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | 5,395,030 | 03/1995 | Kuramoto et al. | | | |
| | 5,571,116 | 11/1996 | Bolanos et al. | | | |
| | 5,676,674 | 10/1997 | Bolanos et al. | | | |
| | 6,086,600 | 07/2000 | Kortenbach | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |
| Form PTO 1449 407051_1 | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |

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